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Vol. XII • Issue 7



Andy Payne with a beautiful Queen Snapper, caught with Capt. Dave Schugar on a Sweet E'nuf charter.

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January 6th, 2010

Volume XII, Issue 7

Spotted Seatrout Season Re-opened . . .

. . . on Jan. 1st. The harvest had been closed since Nov. 1 in South Florida to help maintain an abundant fishery.

The areas affected include Atlantic coast waters south of the Flagler-Volusia county line and Gulf coastal waters south of a line running due west from the westernmost point of Fred Howard Park Causeway, which is 1.17 miles south of the Pinellas-Pasco county line.

The maximum daily bag limit in these areas is four fish per person. In all Florida waters north and west of these areas, the daily limit is five per person. The statewide slot limit for spotted seatrout is 15-20 inches total length. However, anglers may keep one spotted seatrout larger than 20 inches as part of their daily bag limit.

Spotted seatrout may be taken only with hook and line gear and cast nets and must be landed in a whole condition. They may not be harvested by any multiple hooks with live or dead natural bait, by snagging or by snatch hooking.

The harvest of spotted seatrout will close during the month of February in northeast and northwest Florida waters.

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Fishing Report

Capt. Dave Schugar
of Sweet Enuf Charters
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Capt. Dave Schugar Marathon




Brrrrrrr, it is just downright cold outside! Global warming, what? Fishing this week was a bit off for the weather we have been having, but it might be caused by the Gulf Stream being so far offshore. Most of the week the Gulf Stream has been around 20-26 miles offshore which puts a big gap between it and the edge of the reef. The green water, which has had little to no current, has pushed all the way out to the beginning edge of the continental shelf. There has been bait all the way out to the blue water, but as soon as you enter the blue water the water temperature jumps up from 74 degrees to 77.5 degrees.

Sail fishing has suffered, as did most of the offshore species, but I did find a couple fish each day while fishing in tight to the edge of the reef. The grass has made it hard to troll, but trying to find fish in the shallows is really tough because of the milky water conditions. We found some

nice big Kings while slow trolling for sails with a deep bait. The ballyhoo are hoarding around the shallow banks on the ocean side, and catching plenty of bait has not been the problem. I have talked to many captains this week and it seems to be a consensus, the Sail fishing is slow, and it won't get better unless the current comes back.

I ventured out to the deep water this week once to deep-drop some, and we did very well with the groceries. We got plenty of Queen Snappers, Barrels, and got one Snowy Grouper. The Tunas at the hump are abundant and small, but if you get way out in front of the hump and drop your jig down 90 seconds, you have a better chance of getting a larger Tuna in the 10-20 pound range. Once you get closer to the hump the small Tunas are too ferocious so that you can't get a jig far enough down to where the bigger fish might be. The bait of choice for the Queen Snapper was Tuna, but the Barrels only eat squid. When dropping down for Snowy Grouper use big baits and squid to entice these numerous and tasty fish to bite.

There is talk about the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's closure of these deepwater species. They shut down a 25 square mile last year and we all had no problems with that, but I guess it wasn't enough because now they are threatening to shut all the deep water off. Make limits, we will abide by them; don't shut down a fishery - especially when you don't have the data. I recommend that everyone join the RFA; this is an organization which is fighting for our fishing rights, while preserving the fish we are so eager to catch and eat.

If the sea has got you down, don't let it. You don't have to go far to have some fun and catch plenty of fish. This past week the mackerel and snappers have been everywhere just inside of hawks channel and you can make a whole day of catching. Putting a large bait on the bottom while your chumming in this area can produce great results from goliaths to sharks. Remember Hawks Channel is like a superhighway for fish, just like the guys selling flowers at an off ramps, use the bumps and lumps to catch your fish. Good luck and be safe. 

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Fisherman to March on Washington - "UNITED WE FISH" to Ask for Congressional Response on Feb. 24th . . .

In a historic show of solidarity, recreational and commercial fishermen will gather together on the steps of the Capitol on February 24, 2010 from noon until 3 p.m. in an organized demonstration against the unintended negative impacts of the Magnuson Stevens Conservation and Management Act (MSA), the federal fisheries law which was revised in January of 2007. Coordinating the march under the flag of **United We Fish**, rally organizers are hoping to see a large show of force in defense of coastal communities.

"The closures keep coming and it's good to see the collective fishing communities and industries, both recreational and commercial, calling for scientific based Magnuson reform," said Jim Donofrio, Executive Director of the Recreational Fishing Alliance (RFA). "We are all in this together." Donofrio cited recent closures of amberjack, black sea bass and red snapper fisheries as examples of what he calls a "broken" federal fisheries law.

The groups organized through **United We Fish** are hoping to prove to legislators just how many American anglers and business owners are being impacted by the overly restrictive management requirements created by MSA based on non-scientific and arbitrary deadlines.

According to Bob Zales of the Conservation Cooperative of Gulf Fishermen (CCGF), the timespecific deadlines mandated by MSA coupled with flawed data collection methods are forcing anglers off the water. "We fully support real science based management and the conservation of our marine resources while also being able to sustain

recreational and commercial fishing activities, providing locally caught seafood, sustaining small family businesses, and supporting our coastal communities."

This effort is being coordinated by many organizations and individuals including but not limited to the RFA, CCGF, United Boatmen of New York, United Boatmen of New Jersey, New York Sportfishing Federation, Maryland Saltwater Sportfishermen's Association and the Fishing Rights Alliance. "Some people have asked 'why, it's winter'," said Donofrio who said he's gotten the required permits and expects a large crowd in DC on February 24th, regardless of weather.

"We can't let seasons stop the momentum, and if we wait any longer none of us will be fishing. Many members of Congress will be standing shoulder to shoulder with us," Donofrio said.

Nils Stolpe, a consultant to the commercial fishing industry and columnist for SavingSeafood.org said that over the past three decades since the original Magnuson Act was established, fishermen have been gradually phased out of the fisheries management process, regardless of sector. "The scientists have been put in charge, and as the list of closures and restrictions up above painfully demonstrates, the Act has been turned into a weapon that is now being used against fishermen and fishing communities."

Cont. on pg. 7 . . .

Unknown Critic

Who says the glass is always half full? Our Unknown Critic certainly doesn't agree! If you are one of those positive people, hopefully you will get a giggle out of him, and if you are a crabby critic yourself, please drop him a line. You can reach the Unknown Critic at critic@weeklyfisherman.com, with complaints, comments and all those things that tick you off!



? ~ ?

From "somewhere" in the Keys . . .

Trying to find a decent pizza in this place is like trying to get my college educated son to pick up a tab (possible, but not likely during my lifetime)!!

Now there are some people who think that I am a crabby s.o.b. that is never happy, but I disagree with those a**holes. I am simply a guy that would like to be recognized for being right most of the time.

Let me start my rant. After a long day out fishing in the crappy cold weather that the vacation ads don't talk about, I decided to take the family out to eat. Actually the wife demanded to be wined and dined so I thought why not make it my idea and try to find the impossible; a good pizza.

I had heard some people talk about a place on Big Pine Key so I thought I would try it out. I can't remember the name of the damn place

but I will tell you this, it was not easy to find. What the heck was the name? Anyway, we get there and of course there are a bunch of tourists waiting for a table, so we give our name to the hostess and she tells us there will be a 25 minute wait. Great - just great. I hate to have to wait. So, I get comfortable in the waiting area and right away this same waitress announces that our table is ready. If she wasn't so damn cute maybe I would have been pissed off for being lied to . . .

Oh well, I digress . . .

We get to our table and all of a sudden my mood drastically improves. Our waiter, an energetic little guy is right there to take our drink order and actually appears with the correct drinks. I'm starting to have a good feeling and then all of a sudden our pizza comes out and not only is it hot but it is exactly what I ordered. Wow! I thought I had been transported to another dimension of Keys dining.

But then what happened next made me almost fall out of my chair. My wonderful son actually offered to pick up the tab!!!! After my heart restarted, I learned that this generosity was the result of the décor - that's right, the décor. It seems that people actually love the place so much that they staple money to the walls and ceilings. His generosity fades after I tell him he can't take the money off the ceiling to pay the bill. Oh well, it was just a fantasy anyway.

I return to reality, pay the bill, leave a nice tip for our great waiter, and am ready to leave when my son wants us to wait until he can staple some money to the ceiling. It wouldn't have been bad except I had to give him the cash. Thank god for that college education . . .

To wrap up this story, after a long day out fishing try to find that place in Big Pine Key for a pretty damn good meal.

Just wish I could remember the name . . . 

Fishing Report

This report is brought to you courtesy of Capt. Ron Wagner aboard his boat, the Producer. If you would like to fish with Capt. Ron, please call: (304) 664-2028, or visit: www.captainronwagner.com fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com




Capt. Ron Wagner From the Skiff

Last week there was some exciting fishing and I was chartered round the clock during the holiday season. Some days I would be off early in the morning, get in and clean the catch and be back out again after just enough time to gobble down lunch. Most of the trips were out back in the bay and provided a mixed bag of nice fish including big Mangrove and Lane Snappers, Spanish Mackerel, and Sea Trout. And then, bang, a cold front would blow in and put a halt to gulf activities. I definitely didn't mind because I needed a little break to take care of some maintenance that was needed on my tackle and boat. I'm hoping by the time your reading this, we will be back to normal conditions and once again pursuing our passion!

The gulf has been giving us some fantastic fishing. We are at the time of year when we come to expect good days out back and it seems it just

keeps getting better. There have been a lot of bait fish out there and that brings a flow of marauding game fish ready to satisfy their appetites. Ballyhoo, pilchards, pinfish, and shrimp seem thicker than in years past, and that can only mean one thing- excellent opportunities for those wanting constant rod bending action.

Tackle and rigging should never be complicated and I use a lot of spinning outfits at this time of year. I keep them spooled with 8,10, and 12 lb. line, rigged for different situations that will be popping up as I am hitting a variety of areas to find good fishing. Chum is king out here and the time spent to mix the right concoction will draw instant success in most areas that I'm fishing in. I have been chumming for many years and there has been nothing that, at some time or other, I have not mixed in. Some of the stuff I would rather not discuss. I will always be experimenting because that keeps it interesting and hitting the right combo can fill a cooler quickly. I use hooks that are generally in size from 1/0 to 3/0 and of course, light wire circle hooks are mandatory in these waters for those who are Snapper fishing. It's a good rule and in my opinion, it's about time. Leader material can range from 20-50 lb. mono to light copper wire for those toothy Mackerels. A slight weight is sometimes added to get your bait to the right level. I use 1/8 or 1/4 oz. egg sinkers that slide right down to the hook and bait. No swivels for me, I like to keep it simple. Give me a call if you're ready to try fishing out back. I promise you a great time you won't soon forget! Tight lines and screaming drags . . . 



Fishing Report

Capt. Greg Eklund owns and operates the CLOUD NINE in Islamorada out of Bud n Mary's Marina. You can reach him at (305) 360-7476, email: cloudninegreg@bellsouth.net, or visit him at: www.islamoradafishingtrips.com



Capt. Greg Eklund Islamorada Offshore

Happy New Year and may 2010 bring you all the fish of your dreams. The holiday crowds in Islamorada were treated last week to some excellent fishing. The highlight for a lot of people has been the abundance of Sailfish offshore of Islamorada.

The Sails have been using the ample supplies of bait fish along the ledges and wrecks of the reef line as their primary food source. Sardines, Cigar minnows, and Ballyhoo have all been effective baits for catching these highly prized billfish lately. Many crews have been using a mixed setup of fishing kites and trolled baits to ensure success for their anglers. Reports to the north of Islamorada have been very good the past few days and I would assume that we are going to continue to have an excellent bite of Sailfish for the next few weeks.

The Sailfish tournament trail continues this week with the first annual January 6th, 2010

Sailbone Tournament based out of La Siesta Resort. This unique tournament challenges the participants to catch as many bonefish and Sailfish as possible during the two day event.

There are several other species of fish in town right now to target. The King Mackerel bite has been really good lately. Several large Kings, up to forty pounds have been hanging at the docks in the afternoons. These speedy predators make excellent light tackle targets. Baits such as cigar minnows, speedos, and blue runners are all great big King baits. Fishing for these larger Kings has been good between 130 and 220 off the southern end of town.

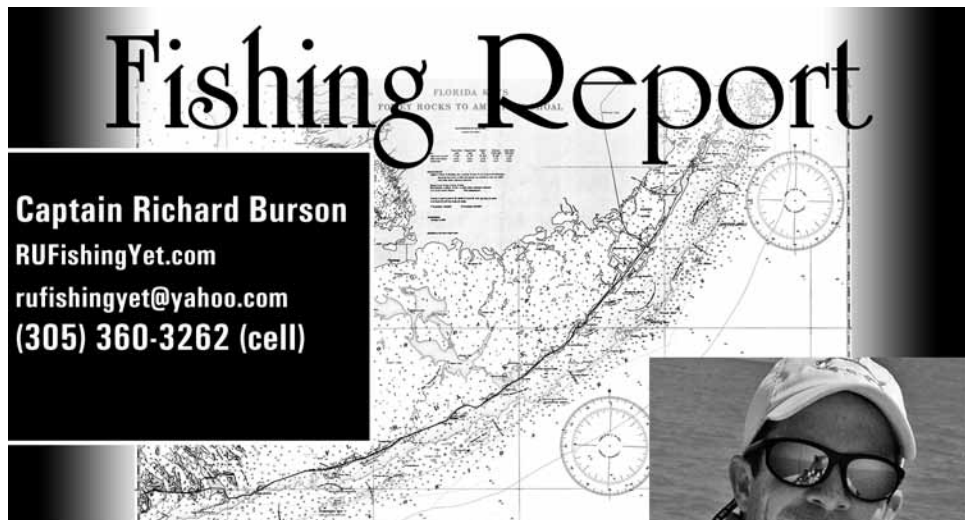

The Wahoo, not wanting to be left off the list, were sprinkled across the fleet's catches during this past week. The best of the Wahoo bite has been off of Conch reef and northward. High speed trolling and larger baits fished from kites are two great ways to catch these highly prized fish. The Cobias are finally starting to show up inside the edge of the reef line. A few boats caught Cobias to 45 pounds last week and I would look for there to be more and more of them around during the next few weeks. The inshore patch fishing has been reliably producing several species of Snapper. Yellowtail, Mutton, Mangrove and Lane Snappers are all scattered across the vast area of Patch reef between the islands and the edge of the reef.

With all of this great fishing happening just offshore of Islamorada, right now is the time for you to get out on the water and enjoy some great fishing. If I can help you make arrangements for a day's charter fishing during your visit please feel free to reach me by email or at the number above. Have a great week and get out on the water and catch some of this excellent fishing.

Great Fishing! 

Fishing Report

Captain Richard Burson
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(305) 360-3262 (cell)

Capt. Richard Burson Key Largo Backcountry

Happy New Year to all! This first week of the new year has been a great one to be on the water. The kids were out on Christmas break making it a busy time for guides and a busy time on the water. There was lots of luck to be had for all who ventured out and many fish tales to bring home.

Redfish were predominant this week with the use of shrimp as bait. They are making a wonderful comeback after being aggressively commercially fished to make the popular meal, blackened Redfish. In my opinion Redfish are not very good eating, so you would be better off catching and releasing them. Because of the popularity of this meal, the population took a dramatic hit, but thanks to conservation efforts we are still enjoying catching and releasing them in the Florida Keys. The bag limit on Redfish is 1 per person, per day, and the size you can take is between 18-27 inches. We were catching them around the famous Flamingo area.

If you ever talk with fishing guides in the Keys you will certainly hear about Flamingo. Flamingo is a favorite place of captains and a hot spot for tourists. If you do not have the ability to take a boat trip into Flamingo, it can be accessed by driving north of the Florida Keys. Flamingo is located 38 miles south of the Everglades National Park entrance. Flamingo and the surrounding areas have changed a great

deal since the hurricanes of 2005. Before 2005 there was a beautiful hotel called the Flamingo Hotel, however there was extensive damage sustained to the hotel during the storm so park officials could do nothing but close the facility. There is still some great camping allowed at Flamingo and I highly recommend it. The fishing and the views are breath taking!

Fishing is just one aspect of the fun encountered on the water. The life here is abundant and worth every minute spent scanning the turquoise waters for the next cluster of life. This week we saw five to ten rosette spoonbills. They are migrating back to the Keys right now. Like many birds, the roseate spoonbill population was once threatened by hunting because its feathers were used to adorn ladies hats. By the early 20th century, the population had shrunk to only a few dozen nesting pairs in the United States. Special protected areas were set aside for them and in the 1940s they were made a protected species. Over time the population recovered and today the roseate spoonbill is no longer a protected species.

Where ever you look in the Florida Keys there is a spectacular view of nothing but nature and all its wonders! So no matter if you enjoy fishing or just want to get on the water to see the famous beauty of the islands, it will be a memory you will not soon forget.

Until next time, ask yourself this one question . . .

Are you fishing yet? 



Atlantic Grouper and Red Snapper Seasons Close . . .

The recreational and commercial harvest of shallow-water groupers (including gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper and tiger grouper) will close from Jan. 1 through April 30 in Atlantic Ocean federal waters. In addition, the recreational and commercial harvest of red snapper will close from Jan. 4 through June 1 in Atlantic federal waters. Federal waters extend beyond 3 nautical miles from shore in the Atlantic off Florida.

The National Marine Fisheries Service implemented these closures in federal waters to address overfishing of grouper and red snapper in the Atlantic. The closures also apply to people on board a vessel for which a federal commercial or charter/headboat permit for the South Atlantic snapper-grouper fishery has been issued, regardless of whether the fish are harvested or possessed in state or federal waters.

In addition, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently approved a rule, consistent with federal regulations, that will close the recreational and commercial harvest of shallow-water groupers (including gag, black grouper, red grouper, scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney, graysby, yellowfin grouper, yellowmouth grouper and tiger grouper) from Jan. 19 through April 30 in Atlantic and Monroe County state waters this year. This closure will begin on Jan. 1 in subsequent years.

State waters in the Atlantic (inside 3 nautical miles from shore) will remain open to the harvest of red snapper.

More information, including the regulations for grouper and red snapper that apply in Gulf of Mexico waters, is available online at www.myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/Saltwater_Regulations_Grouper and www.myfwc.com/RULESANDREGS/Saltwater_Regulations_Snapper.

United We Fish Demonstration *cont. from pg. 4 . . .*

U.S. Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-NJ) first introduced the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2008 in the 110th Congress to provide "limited flexibility" for federal fisheries management. More than 100 fishing groups and industry members from around the country pledged their support for the legislation and the bill's 19 bipartisan coastal cosponsors, but the bill languished during the volatile economic climate in advance of the presidential elections in November of 2008.

Realizing that fishery closures would continue without congressional intervention, in March of this year, Rep. Pallone and fellow Representatives John Adler (D-NJ), Henry Brown, Jr. (R-SC), Ginny Brown-Waite (R-FL), Barney Frank (D-MA), Walter B. Jones, Jr. (R-NC), Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), Frank LoBiondo (R-NJ), Mike McIntyre (D-NC), Michael Michaud (D-ME), Solomon Ortiz (D-TX) and John Tierney (D-MA), reintroduced the Flexibility in Rebuilding American Fisheries Act of 2009 (HR 1584). Twenty-five co-sponsors have since pledged support including Rob Andrews (D-NJ), Timothy Bishop (D-NY), Allen Boyd (D-FL), Joe Courtney (D-CT), Peter King (R-NY), Rob Wittman (RVA), Jo Bonner (R-AL), John Mica (R-FL), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Clifford Stearns (R-FL), Donna Christensen (D-VI), Gus Bilirakis (R-FL), and Ander Crenshaw (R-FL).

Following a letter-writing campaign by the RFA-NY and members of the New York Sportfishing Federation, senior Democratic Senator Charles Schumer of New York announced his Senate version of the bill (S.1255). Currently, the Senate bill to correct the flaws in MSA has no cosponsors, which is something **United We Fish** organizers are hoping will change in February.

"New York's Senator Schumer is as concerned about his fishing constituents as he is about the fish, just as Congressmen Pallone, Frank, Jones, LoBiondo, Kennedy, Adler and others in the House of Representatives are," said Stolpe. "Hence they have formed the nucleus of a growing movement in Congress that, in spite of the editorial opinion of the New York Times and the expenditure of many millions of dollars by the Pew Charitable Trusts, is aimed at preserving recreational and commercial fishing, the lifestyles of millions of fishermen, and the tens of thousands of businesses and hundreds of fishing communities that they support," Stolpe added.

Organizers from within the recreational fishing sector are hoping to get commitment from all user groups and across varied state and regional boundaries. "This is much bigger than any one state issue or individual grievance," said RFA's Managing Director Jim Hutchinson, Jr. "Whether it's our restrictive fluke fishery in New York, the arbitrary closure of state waters for our anglers in California, or the shutdown of red snapper and amberjack down south, our community has been divided by preservationist tactics for too long. It's time to unite the clans in defense of our coastal heritage and traditions," Hutchinson said.

"We need to let Congress and NOAA know that we are the collective voice of the recreational fishing community and the collective voice does not accept the current broken management system which wreaks such havoc on all of us and our businesses," said Donofrio, adding "The goal on February 24th will be to get all of our congressional friends to attend."

"At this point Senator Schumer and his Congressional colleagues in the House deserve the thanks and the support of every one of us who fishes, whether for fun or profit," said Stolpe.

For details as they become available, sign up for the RFA's email newsletter on the homepage at www.joinrfa.org.

The **Recreational Fishing Alliance** is a national, grassroots political action organization representing recreational fishermen and the recreational fishing industry on marine fisheries issues. RFA's Mission is to safeguard the rights of saltwater anglers, protect marine, boat and tackle industry jobs, and ensure the long-term sustainability of our nation's saltwater fisheries.

For more information, call 888-JOIN-RFA.

South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Approves Amendment to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan . . .

9 of the 10 species currently listed as undergoing overfishing in the South Atlantic will be addressed through management measures outlined in Amendment 17B to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan, approved by members of the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council during its meeting in December. Among the measures is a deepwater closure to help protect warsaw grouper and speckled hind, two deepwater species extremely vulnerable to overfishing. The closure will also help protect other deepwater species where release mortality is estimated at 100% for the multi-species fishery, and ensure catches are below the Annual Catch Limits (ACLs) for these species. The reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act requires establishment of ACLs and Accountability Measures for species undergoing overfishing by 2010 and all species managed by the regional fishery management councils by 2011.

If approved, the closure will affect federal waters in the South Atlantic region from approximately 240 feet deep seaward and prohibit fishing for or possession of speckled hind, and warsaw grouper, as well as snowy grouper, blueline tilefish, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, queen snapper, and silk snapper. The deepwater closure excludes golden tilefish, a species generally found over mud bottom and not likely to co-occur over the hard bottom habitat preferred by speckled hind and warsaw grouper. The closure is based on the Council's Scientific and Statistical Committee's recommendation that an Allowable Biological Catch of zero (0) landings be implemented for both speckled hind and warsaw grouper. Currently, fishermen are allowed to keep 1 fish per vessel per trip and sale is prohibited for these two species. The amendment will prohibit all fishing for, possession, and retaining speckled hind and warsaw grouper. In addition to warsaw grouper and speckled hind, golden tilefish, snowy grouper, black grouper, black sea bass, gag, red grouper, and vermilion snapper are currently listed as undergoing overfishing.

The Council held a series of public hearings in early November from Newport News, VA to Key Largo, FL that included Amendment 17B measures, as well as providing a written comment period. Fishermen attending the Key Largo hearing were especially concerned about the negative economic impacts of a deepwater closure, noting that deepwater areas are in close proximity to shore in the Keys. Charter captains noted the cumulative impacts of regulations on their businesses, including a shallow-water grouper closure that begins January 1, 2010 through April 2010. Fishermen in North Carolina also noted the negative impacts to the commercial fishery for blueline tilefish.

The Council reviewed all comments before voting 8 to 5 to approve Amendment 17B. The amendment will be forwarded to NOAA Fisheries Service for review and approval by the Secretary of Commerce. If approved, regulations may be implemented by late 2010.

For more information please visit www.safmc.net.

Fishing Report

Captain Nick Borraccino
Noreaster Sport Fishing
 NoreasterSportFishing.com
 (508) 769-4189

Capt. Nick Borraccino Marathon



Happy New Year to all! I wish I had a better report to start off 2010, but as they say, it is what it is.


The weather turned cold on the first of the year, and there are no indications it will change for the better any time soon. With temperatures in the 50's, vacationers in the Keys are wondering where all the warm air went. Moods are set straight though, as reports of weather from the rest of the country come in which are much, much worse. As we hunker down and wait out the cold and wind, you still have a few fishing options.

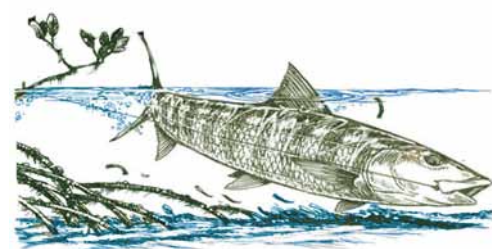
First off, let's leave any offshore talk out of the discussion, as most of us are not thinking about heading out there in 20 plus knot winds, especially with the location of the Gulf Stream so far off lately. Your

best bet for fishing this week will be in Hawks Channel or on the reef, staying as close to the shore as possible. If you can stand the weather, the reef in depths between 25-40 feet of water will yield some fish. There are lots of big Mangrove Snapper being caught on the patches, as well plenty of Grouper (which are now officially a sport fish only). You can usually add to the box a few Yellowtails, Kingfish, and other odds and ends, too. There have been huge numbers of Spanish Mackerel out there, particularly to the west, so if you're looking for steady action or to keep the kids busy, have plenty of wire on board. Small live pinfish, pilchards, shrimp, and fresh cut ballyhoo will do the job on the bottom. For the Mackerel, try throwing around a spoon or other flashy lure, and if that doesn't work, a shrimp on jig head should do. You can expect much the same in the channel, but make sure you're on some kind of hump or other structure as opposed to bare sandy bottom.

Everyone knows this is Sailfish weather, so if you're ok with the chop, head out to the reef and search for those frigate birds! Remember, a well full of live ballyhoo certainly won't hurt, either.

I've heard a few good reports from the Gulf this past week, but my trip to shallow gulf spots a few days ago was a bust. The shallow water cools down quickly in this weather and the fish slow right down with it. The only action to be had has been Spanish Macks and Blue Runners. My advice is to stick ocean side until the water in the back warms up again.

Here's hoping this next week will give us some opportunities to get out there and enjoy the water. Good luck everyone! 



Fishing Report

If you would like to book a charter with Capt Luke Kelly in the Lower Florida Keys for fly or light tackle inshore fishing, please call: (305) 304-3152, or e-mail: KeyFlat@mac.com. Visit www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com for more information.

Capt. Luke Kelly Lower Keys Backcountry




Cold is the first word that comes to mind when preparing this report. A strong blast of dense northern air has left us with the coldest air temps of the season thus far. While I have not been on the water during this blast of northern air, I am otherwise happy it has arrived. This cold weather will undoubtedly shake things up a bit within the inshore waters surrounding the lower Keys and Key West.

Sea Trout season has officially opened in the Keys as of Jan 1st, and I have been polishing my ultra-light rods and reels in preparation. South Florida regulations for 2010 state that a lawful bag limit of sea-trout consists of 4 fish per angler, per day. With a slot-size legal catch being not less than 15 inches or more than 20 inches, with one fish over 20 inches per angler, per day. For those who have not enjoyed a speckled Sea Trout at the dinner table, your missing out. Much like a Trout caught

in a stream, Sea Trout are delicious and can be prepared the very same way. The variety of fish species that Sea Trout commonly swim with makes for great action packed fishing, where a fish can be caught on 6 lb. test literally every other cast.

The past week's weather did give way to some great conditions preceding the cold-air front. Low winds hung out of the east and south for a good few days, and the inshore waters calmed right down. Water temps never really climbed over 70 degrees, although a few opportunities arose offering limited gamefish potential. Huge Jacks and Barracuda have certainly made a stand inshore, and they are always the goto for that strong fight feeling this time of year. Large Snapper are in a thousand different areas throughout the backcountry, however last week's full moon left the majority of them less active during the day.

These upcoming week's moon cycle, water temps, and tides are all lining up for what I consider to be variety fishing at it's best. Anglers can enjoy catching many different aggressive fish in the calm backcountry waters, while bringing home dinner at the same time. It's winter fishing in the Florida Keys, jackets may be required. 

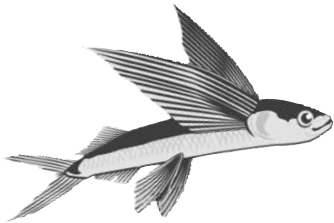




Anglers Dave Browne and his son Greg (Boston, MA) caught Spanish mackerel, cobia (up to 20 lbs), Goliath grouper (up to 50 lbs), a permit, blacktip sharks, jacks, snapper, bluefish, and ladyfish! All while fishing with Capt. Rick Stanczyk (left) out of Bud 'n Mary's Marina.



A nice barracuda caught on the flats by Lester of Chicago, while on a charter with Capt. Luke Kelly.



Tom Chambers, Andy Payne, Blane Lemn and Dan Chambers, with some of the slew of barrel fish, queen snapper, snowy grouper and tuna. Courtesy of Capt. Dave Schugar on a *Sweet E'nuf* charter.



Eight year old Bob Mathias caught this BIG barracuda on a live speedo using 12 pound spinning tackle. He was fishing on the *Restless Too* out of Whale Harbor Marina.

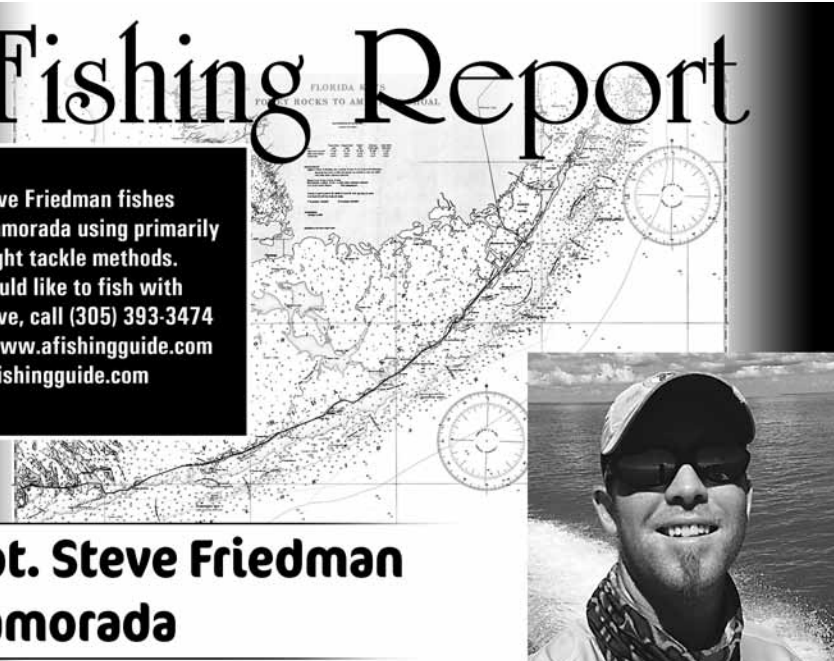


Anthony Sembello, from New Jersey, with a big Mutton Snapper caught aboard the *Fishin' Mission* with Capt. Don Reichert out of Worldwide Sportsman, Islamorada.

Fishing Report

FLORIDA KEYS
FROM THE ROCKS TO AMERICA'S SHORES

Capt. Steve Friedman fishes off of Islamorada using primarily fly and light tackle methods. If you would like to fish with Capt. Steve, call (305) 393-3474 or visit www.afishingguide.com or steve@afishingguide.com



Capt. Steve Friedman Islamorada

As the weather shifted into winter last week, fishing strategy had to shift as well. I allowed the weather to dictate what kind of fishing I would target each day. With the weather changing on an almost daily basis this time of year, in a short time span, I fished the Gulf, the Reef and the Park -- we're lucky to have so many options close to the shores of Islamorada!

I had the pleasure of fishing with the Cantelmo family from Orange County, New York for a few days. These people were so enthusiastic and open-minded. Whatever was biting was what kind of fish they liked best.

In high, cold winds, we ran to Flamingo in Everglades National Park. We started with light tackle, 10-pound braided line, weighted jigs and artificial bait like Berkley Gulp's new penny shrimp color. The first cast tossed into the murky backcountry waters hooked a nice Jack Crevalle. At one point the Cantelmos had a fish on every cast. We ended the day with a flurry of action involving Redfish, Ladyfish and some nice sized Snook -- all safely released.

The next day we ventured out to the Gulf of Mexico in search of Spanish Mackerel. The chum bag soaked for only ten minutes when the



The Cantelmo family from Orange County, New York fished with Capt. Steve Friedman for a few days, catching Jack Crevalle, Snook, Goliath Grouper, Blacktip Sharks, Mangrove Snapper and some baby Tarpon.

toothy speedsters started ripping our tackle apart. When the tide slacked off the Macks seemed to slow down too. So we switched to larger baits on the bottom and battled with Goliath Grouper up to about 80 pounds. We had vicious top water bites too, including 60-pound Black Tip Sharks.

The following day we boarded my 22' Pathfinder and headed to the reef in some light wind and clear skies. Using primarily cast-netted pilchards and hair-hooked ballyhoo for bait, we set out to find Sailfish. I used a four line set with both rigged ballyhoo and nose-hooked pilchards on 7/0 circle hooks. A good strategy, but the Sailfish were difficult to come by for us that morning and we quickly changed tactics to do some bottom fishing. We had a stellar Grouper and Mangrove Snapper bite and capped it off by catching big 'cudas, up to 20 pounds, on light spinning gear.

To round off the holiday week, I took the Cantelmo family flats fishing close to home where we sought Bonefish and Tarpon. After several nice shots using just a medium-sized live shrimp, the Bonefish proved to be a tough adversary and passed up each opportunity we gave them to eat the easy meal. I moved off the flats to deeper water surrounding mangrove islands, where we found willing baby Tarpon. Again I reached for the Berkley Gulp, but this time chose a worm hook in a "Texas-rig" style where the hook point is slightly buried into the lure. My anglers placed casts beautifully, way up under the mangrove canopies, to reach the small Tarpon while avoiding a tangle in the foliage. The boys made some stealthy casts to catch 3 of 4 Tarpon hooked that day. 🐟



Fishing Report

Captain Aaron Brower
 Holiday Isle Marina, Islamorada
www.killerwhite.com
 (305) 522-0374

Capt. Aaron Brower Islamorada Offshore



Happy New Year! The Killer White and her crew hope everyone had a great holiday and want to wish you a safe and happy new year. A big Thank You also goes out to Steve Leopold and all the folks that helped in organizing the Blessing of the Fleet on New Year's Day. It's truly a very special event here in the upper Keys that takes place each year at the Whale Harbor Bridge in which all the boats are blessed by local Pastors, Rabbi's and Clergy. May each captain and boat have a great season and safe travels.

As you know, the Sailfish have been moving through in good numbers giving just about everyone a shot at multiple fish. One of the ways to catch sailfish is to use a kite. Kite fishing is one of the more productive and technical ways to fish for sailfish because kites are more effective for bait presentation. Some of the baits we use while fishing with kites are goggle eyes, thread fins, pilchards, sardines, speedos and even ballyhoos. You can pretty much use any bait as long as you bridle them so that they swim well. Using the kites helps keep baits like goggle eyes from swimming straight to the bottom. You can fish them from ten feet below the surface, to right on the surface. This allows them to splash around in a way that grabs the attention of the fish. While fishing with kites, there is also a great opportunity to catch other species of fish like Kings, Wahoo, and even Dolphin. There are some captains who will go to the Islamorada Hump and rig ballyhoo in the kite and skip them

across the surface to catch really nice size Black Fin Tuna.

The Wahoo are definitely starting to present themselves again. Chris Scott from the Dog House charter boat reported a nice catch of Wahoo, the largest one was around 50 pounds, using speedos for bait. Mutton Snapper, a great bottom fish ranging from 5-20 pounds are providing great action as well as great dinner fare. The Captain Easy, captained by Bruce Anderson, caught their limit of genuine Red Snappers this week on more than one trip. They were just in time too because as of January 4th those fish are off limits. Several Grouper species are also out of season from January through April. In the near future there are more closures to come including: Warsaw Grouper, Snowy Grouper, Blueline Tilefish, Yellowedge Grouper, Misty Grouper, Queen Snapper and Silk Snapper. It appears that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council has approved, with little regard for Monroe County as its own special entity, (seeing as how a large number of the residents and businesses rely on fishing in one way or another as income) another crushing closure.

Through research from its Scientific and Statistical Committee, they have declared that the deepwater species are being over fished, so they are deciding to close bottom fishing for several species from 240 feet deep seaward. This will probably take effect in 2011. As useless as it may seem sometimes, anyone who loves to fish in Monroe county needs to write or e-mail our government officials as much as they can. We all need to be heard, because these types of closures can be detrimental in one way or another to our livelihoods.

Here's to keeping the rods bent . . . 



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Bob of Colorado enjoyed his first bonefish during a late afternoon charter with Capt. Luke Kelly before an oncoming cold-front.



Dylan Moeller with what could be the last sailfish caught in 2009, hooked and released this one on Conch Reef just after sunset on New Year's Eve.

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12 / 16

Allen, Realtor Realty World Freewheeler 305-522-4185

Enjoy Elegance & Luxury

Ocean Views & Dockage at Beacon Reef Condo perfectly located at MM 83.2 in Islamorada. This 2 bed/2 bath has updated Kitchen & Baths. Located just 1 unit from Ocean – Views are Spectacular! Clubhouse, Pool, Hot Tub, Large Undercover parking for boat & car. This condo has it all & shows beautifully!

\$749,000 – MLS 550110. Nancy



12 / 16

Allen, Realtor Realty World Freewheeler 305-522-4185

Above Flood - Concrete

Home has been remodeled: large spectacular kitchen, 3 bed/2 updated baths, tile floors, nice storage. All located in an X flood zone! Great homeowner's park nearby with boat ramp & temp. dockage offering easy ocean/bay access through Tavernier Creek. This is not a drive-by! Must see!

\$349,000 – MLS 547908. Nancy



12 / 16

Allen, Realtor Realty World Freewheeler 305-522-4185

Rare Find! Tri-level

3 bed/2 bath townhome offers Endless Oceanviews, shallow dockage, pool & sandy beach area for sunbathing. Gated and Secluded property located on Windley Key MM 84. Enjoy that Keys feeling on the open porches overlooking the ocean! Furnished and ready to enjoy! This is a must see!

\$625,000 – MLS 548135. Nancy



12 / 16

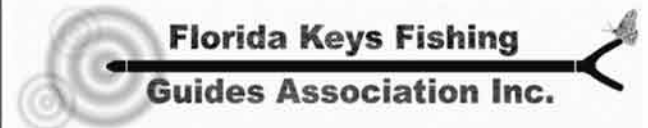
Picture-Perfect Canal Home

in desirable Indian Waterways MM 89. Meticulously maintained, 3 bed/2 baths. Like new condition; screened patio overlooks the canal and another off the master bedroom; dock, hot tub, workshop down, plenty of storage. Large lot with room to park all the toys! Easy Bay & Ocean access via Tavernier Creek. Shows Beautifully! Seller is Motivated!! **\$559,000 - MLS 546777**

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info@charterboatassociation.com
P.O. Box 462 Islamorada, FL 33036



KEY LARGO (Ocean Reef - 25.3100° N, 80.2800° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Jan 6	Wed	00:31 / 2.52 ft	06:45 / -0.12 ft	12:49 / 2.48 ft	19:18 / -0.44 ft	
Jan 7	Thu	01:31 / 2.39 ft	07:46 / 0.15 ft	13:44 / 2.31 ft	20:18 / -0.35 ft	
Jan 8	Fri	02:34 / 2.28 ft	08:49 / 0.34 ft	14:43 / 2.18 ft	21:19 / -0.28 ft	
Jan 9	Sat	03:39 / 2.21 ft	09:52 / 0.45 ft	15:45 / 2.09 ft	22:18 / -0.25 ft	
Jan 10	Sun	04:42 / 2.19 ft	10:51 / 0.48 ft	16:45 / 2.05 ft	23:13 / -0.25 ft	
Jan 11	Mon	05:39 / 2.20 ft	11:45 / 0.44 ft	17:41 / 2.06 ft		
Jan 12	Tue		00:04 / -0.28 ft	06:29 / 2.24 ft	12:34 / 0.37 ft	18:30 / 2.09 ft
Jan 13	Wed		00:50 / -0.32 ft	07:13 / 2.27 ft	13:19 / 0.28 ft	19:15 / 2.13 ft

BIG PINE (Pine Channel - 24.6900° N, 81.3833° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Jan 6	Wed	02:08 / 0.73 ft	09:27 / 0.05 ft	14:37 / 0.81 ft	22:25 / 0.02 ft	
Jan 7	Thu	03:20 / 0.58 ft	10:11 / 0.10 ft	15:29 / 0.84 ft	23:46 / 0.00 ft	
Jan 8	Fri	04:47 / 0.46 ft	11:00 / 0.15 ft	16:27 / 0.85 ft		
Jan 9	Sat		01:05 / -0.03 ft	06:20 / 0.40 ft	11:55 / 0.17 ft	17:29 / 0.86 ft
Jan 10	Sun		02:15 / -0.07 ft	07:36 / 0.39 ft	12:53 / 0.18 ft	18:31 / 0.87 ft
Jan 11	Mon		03:13 / -0.10 ft	08:32 / 0.39 ft	13:51 / 0.16 ft	19:27 / 0.88 ft
Jan 12	Tue		04:01 / -0.11 ft	09:15 / 0.41 ft	14:44 / 0.14 ft	20:14 / 0.89 ft
Jan 13	Wed		04:42 / -0.12 ft	09:50 / 0.43 ft	15:32 / 0.12 ft	20:57 / 0.91 ft

ISLAMORADA (Whale Harbor - 24.9400° N, 80.6083° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Jan 6	Wed	00:46 / 1.60 ft	07:19 / -0.03 ft	13:04 / 1.58 ft	19:52 / -0.11 ft	
Jan 7	Thu	01:46 / 1.52 ft	08:20 / 0.03 ft	13:59 / 1.47 ft	20:52 / -0.08 ft	
Jan 8	Fri	02:49 / 1.45 ft	09:23 / 0.08 ft	14:58 / 1.39 ft	21:53 / -0.07 ft	
Jan 9	Sat	03:54 / 1.41 ft	10:26 / 0.11 ft	16:00 / 1.33 ft	22:52 / -0.06 ft	
Jan 10	Sun	04:57 / 1.39 ft	11:25 / 0.11 ft	17:00 / 1.31 ft	23:47 / -0.06 ft	
Jan 11	Mon	05:54 / 1.40 ft	12:19 / 0.11 ft	17:56 / 1.31 ft		
Jan 12	Tue		00:38 / -0.07 ft	06:44 / 1.42 ft	13:08 / 0.09 ft	18:45 / 1.33 ft
Jan 13	Wed		01:24 / -0.08 ft	07:28 / 1.45 ft	13:53 / 0.07 ft	19:30 / 1.36 ft

CUDJOE KEY (Pirates Cove - 24.6600° N, 81.4917° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Jan 6	Wed	01:09 / 1.21 ft	08:16 / 0.08 ft	13:38 / 1.35 ft	21:14 / 0.04 ft	
Jan 7	Thu	02:21 / 0.96 ft	09:00 / 0.18 ft	14:30 / 1.40 ft	22:35 / 0.00 ft	
Jan 8	Fri	03:48 / 0.77 ft	09:49 / 0.25 ft	15:28 / 1.43 ft	23:54 / -0.05 ft	
Jan 9	Sat	05:21 / 0.67 ft	10:44 / 0.29 ft	16:30 / 1.44 ft		
Jan 10	Sun		01:04 / -0.11 ft	06:37 / 0.65 ft	11:42 / 0.30 ft	17:32 / 1.45 ft
Jan 11	Mon		02:02 / -0.16 ft	07:33 / 0.65 ft	12:40 / 0.28 ft	18:28 / 1.47 ft
Jan 12	Tue		02:50 / -0.19 ft	08:16 / 0.68 ft	13:33 / 0.24 ft	19:15 / 1.50 ft
Jan 13	Wed		03:31 / -0.21 ft	08:51 / 0.72 ft	14:21 / 0.21 ft	19:58 / 1.52 ft

MARATHON (Boot Key Harbor - 24.7067° N, 81.0967° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Jan 6	Wed	00:38 / 1.52 ft	06:51 / 0.11 ft	13:08 / 1.74 ft	19:54 / 0.05 ft	
Jan 7	Thu	01:46 / 1.21 ft	07:37 / 0.30 ft	13:57 / 1.81 ft	21:12 / -0.01 ft	
Jan 8	Fri	03:16 / 0.96 ft	08:29 / 0.45 ft	14:52 / 1.84 ft	22:25 / -0.09 ft	
Jan 9	Sat	05:20 / 0.86 ft	09:28 / 0.54 ft	15:53 / 1.86 ft	23:31 / -0.17 ft	
Jan 10	Sun	06:48 / 0.88 ft	10:29 / 0.57 ft	16:58 / 1.88 ft		
Jan 11	Mon		00:27 / -0.24 ft	07:41 / 0.91 ft	11:26 / 0.55 ft	17:58 / 1.92 ft
Jan 12	Tue		01:17 / -0.29 ft	08:19 / 0.94 ft	12:18 / 0.49 ft	18:49 / 1.95 ft
Jan 13	Wed		02:00 / -0.31 ft	08:47 / 0.97 ft	13:05 / 0.41 ft	19:32 / 1.98 ft

KEY WEST (Hawk Channel - 24.5450° N, 81.7833° W)

		High	Low	High	Low	High
Date	Day	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height	Time / Height
Jan 6	Wed	00:50 / 1.47 ft	07:01 / 0.08 ft	13:20 / 1.68 ft	20:02 / 0.05 ft	
Jan 7	Thu	02:02 / 1.18 ft	07:45 / 0.23 ft	14:10 / 1.74 ft	21:22 / 0.01 ft	
Jan 8	Fri	03:31 / 0.96 ft	08:35 / 0.35 ft	15:07 / 1.78 ft	22:40 / -0.05 ft	
Jan 9	Sat	05:08 / 0.87 ft	09:32 / 0.43 ft	16:10 / 1.81 ft	23:49 / -0.11 ft	
Jan 10	Sun	06:27 / 0.87 ft	10:32 / 0.46 ft	17:13 / 1.84 ft		
Jan 11	Mon		00:48 / -0.17 ft	07:23 / 0.90 ft	11:31 / 0.45 ft	18:10 / 1.87 ft
Jan 12	Tue		01:36 / -0.21 ft	08:04 / 0.94 ft	12:25 / 0.40 ft	18:59 / 1.91 ft
Jan 13	Wed		02:18 / -0.23 ft	08:38 / 0.97 ft	13:13 / 0.34 ft	19:42 / 1.93 ft

Moon Phases

Last Quarter: 01/07/10 • New: 01/15/10
First Quarter: 01/24/10 • Full: 01/30/10

Tide predictions may not be accurate. The Weekly Fisherman accepts no liabilities associated with any referenced use of the above-listed tidal information. Remember that weather conditions affect tidal ranges and current speeds, sometimes very strongly.

KEYS CAPTAIN & GUIDE DIRECTORY



This Directory is a comprehensive list of the best shallow water flats guides & offshore charter skippers from Key Largo to Key West. Flats species of fish include: Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon, Redfish, Snook & Trout. Offshore species of fish include: Dolphin, Sailfish, Wahoo, Kingfish, Tuna, Snapper & Grouper. Gulf species of fish include: Kingfish, Grouper, Snapper, Cobia & Tarpon.

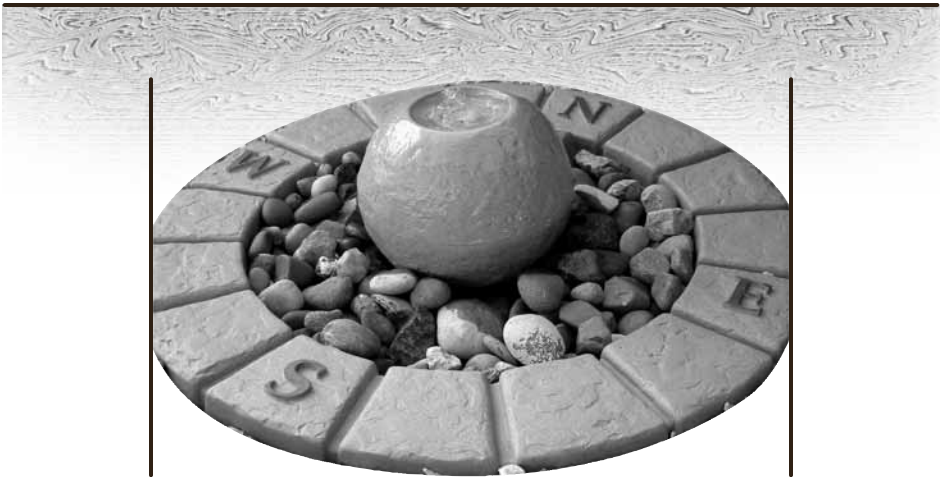


**BC-Back Country • LT-Light Tackle • FL-Flats • OFF-Offshore • GF-Gulf Fishing
WR-Wreck • OVN-Overnight • MD-Multi-Day • TP-Tarpon • FLY-Fly Fishing**

Listings in this Directory are available for only \$299 / year (print and web).

Upper Keys Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada	Contact Info
Capt. Greg Eklund Cloud Nine Charters	OFF / REEF / WR / FL	(305) 360-7476 www.islamoradafishingtrips.com
Key Largo Fishing Adventures	OFF / BC / REEF	(305) 923-9293 www.keyssportfishing.com
Capt. George Clark, Jr.	OFF / REEF / BC	(305) 522-2638 www.rodeocharters.com
Capt. Wells Gable	BC / FL	(305) 522-2373 www.captwellsable@msn.com
Capt. Lain Goodwin	BC / FL	(305) 304-2212 captain@dirtywatercharters.com
Capt. Tad Burke	BC / FL / GF / OFF	(305) 852-0739 (305) 451-7354
Capt. Kevin Brown	Gold Reserve Charters	(305) 394-0792 www.goldreservecharters.com
Capt. John Taskowitz	OFF	(305) 664-9202 www.suzannefishingcharters.com
Capt. Ted Benbow	FL / BC	(305) 393-0363 www.skinsandfinscharters.com
Capt. Bill Wert Whisper Charters	FL / BC / LT / GF / FLY	(305) 393-1910 mrbill54@bellsouth.net
Capt. Stephen Murray	BC / FL / LT	(305) 393-1641 stevemurray126@comcast.net
Capt. Ron Allen	Fish Tales Charters	(305) 664-0050 www.fishtalessportfishing.com
Capt. Butch Green	Sassy Lady Charters	(305) 394-4717 sassyladycharters@comcast.net
Capt. Jeff Van Derflue	BC	(305) 393-6940 flatitudecharters@hotmail.com
Capt. Don Clark	OFF	(305) 664-5020 www.seahorsecharters.com
Capt. Joe Petrucco Killer Instinct 6	OFF / GULF / REEF / TP	(305) 304-4580 joepetrucco@yahoo.com
Capt. Jack Falcucci	OFF / REEF 50' Custom Ocean Sportfish	(305) 393-0795
Capt. Frank Drudi Chelsea Charters	OFF/REEF/WR	(866) 431-2277 floridakeyscharterfishing@yahoo.com
Capt. Ron Wagner	TP/LT/FLY/BC/FL/GF/REEF	(305) 664-2028 fishwithcaptron@hotmail.com
Capt. Paul Hunt captpaul@finhuntercharters.com	BC / FL / LT / FLY	(305) 393-2495 www.finhuntercharters.com
Capt. Bruce Andersen Capt. Easy Charters	OFF / WR	(305) 360-2120 www.captaineasycharters.com
Capt. Skip Nielsen	BC / FL / LT	(305) 664-9314 skipcyd@bellsouth.net
Capt. Robert Mathias, Jr www.floridakeysfishing.com	“RESTLESS TOO”	(305) 304-4422 capt@floridakeysfishing.com
Capt. Bruce Pollock Edge Charters	FL / BC / LT	(305) 393-5269 CaptainBruce@florida-keys-fishing-guides.com
Capt. Aaron Brower	OFF/REEF/WR	(305) 522-0374 www.killerwhite.com
Capt. Matt Bellinger	BC / GULF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-0909 www.bamboocharters.com

Upper Keys (cont.) Captain / Charter	Key Largo to Islamorada	Contact Info
Capt. Ann Holahan	BC/FL/TP/LT/FLY/REEF	(305) 664-5891 www.boneranger.com
Capt. Juan Garcia Beats Land Charters	BC / GF / REEF / OFF	(305) 297-0438 www.beatslandcharters.com
Capt. Skip Bradeen	OFF	(305) 481-5151 www.bluechiptoo.com
Capt. Steve Friedman	FL / BC / FLY	(305) 393-3474 www.afishingguide.com
Capt. Larry Wren A Pirates Choice Charters	OFF	(305) 360-4900 www.apirateschoice.com
Capt. Dave Purdo	FL / BC	(305) 852-5989
Capt. J.R. captainjr@bellsouth.net	OFF	800-473-4106 or 305-481-0649 www.captainj-rcharters.com
Capt Mitch Mitchell	BC / FL	305-587-1150 www.reelchaoscharters.com
Capt. Kerry Wingo	BC / LT / FL / FLY	Klcaptkw@aol.com www.tailsupfishing.com
Capt. Augie Wampler's captwamp@yahoo.com	OFF	(305) 393-2765 www.BlueWaterPredator.com
Capt. Ron Brack www.hatatudecharters.com	OFF	(305) 484-8410 (305) 393-0452
Capt. Jeff Frasier Genesis Charters	OFF	(305) 393-3981 www.genesischarters.com
Capt. Donny Lange whereisdl@yahoo.com	BC / FL	(305) 522-1929 www.captdonny.com
Captain Richard Burson www.rufishingyet.com	BC/LT/FL/GF/TP/FLY	(305) 360-3262 rufishingyet@yahoo.com
Captain Scott Keller Bad Habit Charters	OFF / BC / WR / GF	(305) 664-6678 captscott@badhabitfishingcharters.com
Capt. Z Hooked Up Charters	OFF / REEF / WR	(305) 393-6931 hookedupgladius@aol.com



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Listings in this Directory are available for only \$299 / year (print and web).

Middle Keys

Captain / Charter

Capt. Nick Borraccino	OFF / REEF / WR	(508) 769-4189 www.noreastersportfishing.com
Capt. Steve "Coach" Demuth	Tarpon Only	(941) 716-4043 tarponcoach@comcast.net
Capt. David Schugar	OFF / REEF	(305) 610-4778 www.sweetenufcharters.com
Capt. Paul Suarez	Licensed Captain Any Boat	(305) 731-7464
Main Attraction	OFF / REEF	(305) 289-0071 www.mainattraction.org
Capt. Ron Teke	OFF / REEF / WR / BAY	(305) 289-8790 www.KeysMagic.com
Capt. Joe Saldino	FL / LT / BC / MD / TP / FLY	(305) 731-0039 okajo@bellsouth.net
Capt. Jeff Pfister	BC / LT / FL / GF / WR / OVN / MD / TP / FLY	(305) 451-5903
Dockside Charters		captainjeff@DocksideCharters.com www.DocksideCharters.com

Long Key to Marathon

Contact Info

Lower Keys

Captain / Charter

Capt. Chris Lembo	OFF / REEF	(305) 292-0067 incognitocharters@comcast.net
Capt. Sandy Horn	BC / FL	(305) 393-6913 shorn2979@yahoo.com
Capt. Steve Lamp	FL / OFF / WR / GF / FLY / TP	(888) 362-3474 www.fishingkeywest.com
Capt. Frank Piku	OFF / GULF / REEF	(305) 509-1547
Daytime / Nighttime Swordfishing Trips		www.captainfranksfishingcharters.com
Capt. Andrew Tipler	BC / FL / OFF / REEF	(305) 744-9796
Last Cast Charters		www.lastcastcharters.com
Capt. Tony Taverna	OFF / REEF / INSHORE	(631) 355-9344
Morning Star Sportfishing		www.morningstarsportfishingcharters.net
Capt. Luke Kelly	FL / FLY / LT / BC / TP	(305) 304-3152
keyflat@mac.com		www.lowerkeysflatsfishing.com
Capt. Barry / Capt. James	OFF / REEF / WR	(305) 407-4381
Eva Marie Sportfishing		bgandrews18@aol.com (305) 304-6283

Big Pine Key to Key West

Contact Info

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12 / 02

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TOURNAMENTS

We want to hear about your tournament!
Have it listed here for FREE by calling
Jess at (305) 852-FISH (3474), or via
e-mail: editor@weeklyfisherman.com.

Jan. 7-9: Sailfish Open at Hawks Cay. Marathon. Eighteen teams of professional anglers and amateur enthusiasts will compete in the catch-and-release tournament in the waters around Marathon. Contact Laura Emmole at (305) 395-3474 or (727) 631-0072, e-mail lemmole@worldsailfish.com or visit thesailfishopen.com.

Jan. 7-10: Sailbone Offshore & Backcountry. Islamorada. Three days of fishing in the backcountry and offshore have anglers competing for both sailfish and bonefish. Contact Sharon Mahoney Ellenwood at (305) 664-2012 or (305) 393-6174, or e-mail sharellen@netzero.net.

Jan 10-11: Bartender's Sailfish Open. Islamorada. An all-release sailfish tournament, this challenge offers awards to winning bars and bartenders. Contact Dianne Harbaugh at (305) 852-2102, e-mail ditournaments@aol.com, visit islamoradasailfishtournament.com or write to P.O. Box 462, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan 12-14: Islamorada SailFly Championship. Islamorada. In this all-release boat team tournament with no more than two anglers per boat allowed, captains, mates or anglers can tease, but only the registered anglers can cast, hook and play the fish. Tournament rules will be IGFA format. Contact Denise Scoble or Sandy Moret at (305) 664-5423, e-mail sandy@floridakeysoutfitters.com or write to P.O. Box 603, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan. 15-17: Key Largo Sailfish Challenge. Key Largo. Anglers battle sailfish during the peak of the season. The tournament also features raffles, drawings and cash prizes. Contact Tammie Gurgio at (305) 852-9337 or e-mail fishnbully@msn.com.

Jan. 21-23: Cheeca Lodge Presidential Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. In this all-release tournament, anglers fish for the mighty sailfish in waters surrounding the region known as the Sportfishing Capital of the World. The tournament is an official event of the World Billfish Series, Southeast Division. Contact Liz Hill at (305) 451-5094, e-mail presidentialsailfishtournament@cheeca.com, visit cheeca.com or write to Cheeca Lodge, P.O. Box 527, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan. 22-24: Key West Harbour King Mackerel Tournament. Key West. Anglers use fast boats to target the voracious king mackerel, also known as kingfish, for cash prizes. Contact Lee Murray at (305) 296-0364, e-mail lee@murraymarine.com or write to Murray Marine, 5710 U.S. 1, Mile Marker 5, Key West FL 33040.

Jan. 25-26: Captain Al Flutie Over the Hill Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. Anglers ages 50 and over are challenged to catch and release the most sailfish. Contact Bill Kelly at (305) 394-5333 or write to 130 Tequesta St., Tavernier, FL 33070; or contact Gary Ellis at (305) 664-2002, e-mail redboneinc@aol.com, visit redbone.org or write to P.O. Box 273, Islamorada FL 33036.

Jan. 27-28: Islamorada Fishing Club Sailfish Tournament. Islamorada. The historic fishing club offers a \$30,000 winner-take-all cash prize in this sailfish challenge. The tournament is limited to 30 boats. Contact Dianne Harbaugh at (305) 852-2102 or (305) 664-4725, e-mail fishing@theislamoradafishingclub.com or visit theislamoradafishingclub.com.

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